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## MUSEUMS & CULTURAL AFFAIRS

The City of El Paso Museums and Cultural Affairs Advisory Board (MCAAB)  
Thursday – October 16, 2014 – 4:00 p.m.  
El Paso Museum of Art, Larry Francis Board Room

### MINUTES

1. **Call to Order and Roll Call.** Meeting was called to order at 4:05 p.m.

Roll Call	Board Member	Present	Absent
	R. Katherine Brennand	X	
	Estrella Escobar		X
	Kenneth Gorski	X	
	Teresa Hernandez	X	
	Jeannine Kennedy	X	
	Ann F. Kruzich	X	
	Daniel Longoria		X
	Steve Lujan	X	
	Marina Monsisvais	X	
	William Moody	X	
	Analinda Moreno		X
	Susan Novick		X
	Isela Ocegueda	X	
	Elia Perez	X	
	Carina Ramirez	X	
	Jane B. Thomas	X	

CITY CLERK DEPT.  
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Consecutive absences: Daniel Longoria (5<sup>th</sup>).

Others present: Michael Tomor, Julia Bussinger, Patricia Dalbin, Dionne Mack and Misty Castaneda.

2. **Call for Public Comment.** None.

3. **Annual Meeting Schedule.** Chair allowed members time to review the schedule, noting it was a point of information.

4. **Discussion and Action on Approval of Minutes for September 18, 2014.** Chair began by allowing members time to review the minutes of the last meeting. Carina Ramirez moved to approve. Elia Perez seconded; all members voted in favor, none opposed, and motion passed unanimously.

5. **Discussion and Action on Election of Officers.** Dionne Mack began by advising members that a Chair and Vice-Chair are needed for the year before requesting nominations for the position of Chair. Ken Gorski self-nominated and Board Secretary Misty Castaneda requested a motion to accept the nomination. Carina Ramirez so moved; Marina Monsisvais seconded the motion; all members voted in favor, none opposed, and motion passed unanimously.

Dionne requested nominations for the position of Vice-Chair, and Ken Gorski nominated Carina Ramirez. Carina accepted and Marina Monsisvais so moved. Elia Perez seconded; all members voted in favor, none opposed, and motion passed unanimously.

In conclusion, Ken Gorski was elected Chair and Carina Ramirez was elected Vice-Chair.

6. **Discussion and Action on Selection of Board Liaisons to Museum Facilities.** Dionne Mack reminded members that the Board has a liaison to each museum facility and requested nominations for the El Paso Museum of Archaeology liaison. Marina Monsisvais nominated Elia Perez, who accepted. Marina Monsisvais moved to approve; Isela Ocegueda seconded; all members voted in favor, none opposed, and motion passed unanimously.

Dionne next requested nominations for the liaison to the El Paso Museum of History and Isela Ocegueda self-nominated. Elia Perez moved to approve; Marina Monsisvais seconded; all members voted in favor, none

opposed, and motion passed unanimously.

Lastly, Dionne requested nominations for the liaison to the El Paso Museum of Art and Marina Monsivais nominated Jane Thomas, who accepted. Jeannine Kennedy moved to approve; Teresa Hernandez seconded; all members voted in favor, none opposed, and motion passed unanimously.

In conclusion, Elia Perez was appointed Archaeology Museum liaison, Isela Ocegueda was appointed History Museum liaison, and Jane Thomas was appointed Art Museum liaison.

**7. Museum Reports.** Michael Tomor began with a brief overview of the Art Museum's budget, attendance figures, exhibit openings and closings, outreach programs, classes, lectures and programming. Mentioned the launch of Tom Lea month, an artist from our own community whose father was the mayor during the Mexican Revolution. He illustrated for Life magazine and gained a national reputation. Members Choice is on November 16<sup>th</sup>, made possible by an annual \$30,000-\$35,000 grant from the Lipscomb Foundation that is set aside and specifically restricted for the purchase of artwork. Pre-selections will need to be pre-approved by the advisory board. Michael concluded his report and opened the floor for questions. General discussion followed.

Julia Bussinger began with the Archaeology Museum, mentioning a lecture that concerned Hueco Tanks and a special heritage group that is working to include Hueco Tanks on the UNESCO Heritage List for cultural sites. The upside to being on this list will be a spike in visitors and money to help preserve the park. The weekly at-atl demonstration continues every Saturday, Julia provided a brief overview of vacancies, mentioned upcoming events and the extension of the Tigua artifacts loan.

For the History Museum, Julia spoke on upcoming exhibits, events, activities, continued celebrations of our multi-cultural heritage and provided an update on the Digital Wall, which has a tentative grand opening date of January 24<sup>th</sup>, and its website, which is still in testing mode. She noted that classes are very well attended and announced that the office of the Honorable Congressman Beto O'Rourke nominated the History Museum for a National Medal for Museum and Library Services and documents with letters of support have been submitted. Julia opened the floor for questions, there were none, and she concluded her reports.

**8. Discussion and Action on El Paso Museum of Art Acquisitions.** Michael Tomor began by reminding members that previous discussion had taken place on how to go about bringing a selection of over 400 pieces to be reviewed by the board that were bequeathed to the museum by Gertrude A. Goodman. The museum's Accessions Committee has met five times over the last thirty days in an effort to accept or decline the pieces. Handouts with pertinent descriptions and photos of the pieces accepted and pieces declined were provided to members for their review (attached here as part of these minutes). Michael explained to members that they were being asked to approve the recommendations of the Accessions Committee, both those recommended not to be included (247 pieces) as well as those that were recommended to be included (171 pieces). There will be an official appraisal on every piece that is accepted to the museum's collection. Images of highlighted pieces were provided for review via a PowerPoint slideshow. With that, Michael asked that the board accept the recommendation of the Accessions Committee for the pieces accepted and those that were declined.

Chair requested a motion to approve the acquisitions that were accepted by the committee. Carina Ramirez so moved; Teresa Hernandez seconded; all members voted in favor, none opposed, and motion passed unanimously.

Chair next requested a motion to approve the acquisitions that were declined by the committee. Katherine Brennand so moved; Steve Lujan seconded; all members voted in favor, none opposed, and motion passed unanimously.

Michael continued with the Members Choice pre-selections that will require pre-approval by the board. He explained that a curatorial committee determined one of the weakest parts of the permanent collection is an incomplete collection of works by what are considered to be early El Paso artists. Five artists needed in the collection, that currently have to be borrowed, were identified. Michael briefly reviewed the pre-selected pieces and images were provided for review via a PowerPoint slideshow. The first, an oil on canvas board by G. Harris Shelton, is titled 'Desert Sunset'; the second, an oil on canvas board by Leola Freeman, is untitled; the third, an oil on masonite by Lois Denton, is titled 'Near Cottonwood Springs, El Paso, Texas'; the fourth, a colored gelatin silver print by Joe Gandara, is titled 'Anapra Yucca'; and the fifth, an oil on canvas by Win Korf, is titled 'South El Paso'. Michael reiterated these pieces are under consideration, the Accessions Committee agreed any one of these would be acceptable to the collection, and he requested board approval. Carina Ramirez so moved; Katherine Brennand seconded; all members voted in favor, none opposed, and motion passed unanimously.

**9. Discussion and Action on Approval of the 2014 Public Art Master Plan for the City of El Paso.** Pat Dalbin began by briefing members on the timeline for approval, mentioning that it would go to City Council on October 28<sup>th</sup>. She noted there are 38 completed projects, 22 projects in progress, and we have \$13.8M generated from the Quality of Life bond issuance and the street infrastructure project. The Master Plan process involved interviews with the Advisory Committee, City Representatives, the City Manager, Department Directors, national and local artists; there were round tables with art, design, cultural and civic leaders; neighborhood open houses; an internet-based survey; visits to current collections and potential sites and analysis of bond packages and capital budgets. Pat continued to explain the purpose of the Master Plan, priorities for future projects and key points via a PowerPoint slideshow. General discussion followed. Marina Monsivais motioned to accept the Public Art Master Plan as submitted. Teresa Hernandez seconded; all members voted in favor, none opposed, and motion passed unanimously.

**10. Adjournment.** Chair requested a motion to adjourn. Marina Monsivais so moved; Elia Perez seconded; all

members voted in favor, none opposed, and motion passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 5:18 p.m. Next meeting scheduled for November 20, 2014.

Approved for content by:  
Isela Ocegueda, Chair

Respectfully submitted by:  
Misty Castaneda, Administrative Assistant  
Museums & Cultural Affairs Department